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RETURNS OF AUSTRIAN ELECTIONS ON FEBRUARY 22, 1953

4,319,274 valid votes were cast in Austria's general parliamentary elections of Sunday, February 22nd, 1953; the number of registered voters was 4,586,879. In the election of 1945,

when 3,217,354 valid votes were cast the number of registered voters was 3,449,605 and in 1949 the respective figures were 4,391,815 and 4,189,366. The results of this year's voting are:

YEAR	VALID VOTES		PEOPLE'S PARTY		SOCIALIST PARTY		UNION OF INDEPENDENTS		PEOPLE'S OPPOSITION *)		SPLINTER GROUPS	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
NUMBER OF VOTES CAST												
1953	4,319,274	100	1,781,969	41.25	1,818,811	42.1	473,022	10.95	228,228	5.25	17,244	0.45
1949	4,189,366	100	1,844,850	44.1	1,621,275	38.7	489,132	11.7	212,651	5	21,458	0.5
1945	3,217,354	100	1,602,227	49.8	1,434,898	44.6			174,257	5.4	5,972	0.2
NUMBER OF SEATS IN LOWER CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT (NATIONALRAT)												
1953	165		74		73		14		4		-	
1949	165		77		67		16		5		-	
1945	165		85		76		-		4		-	

*) Formerly called Leftist Bloc (Communists)

ELEVEN PARTIES ENTERED NATIONAL ELECTIONS. At a meeting of the Austrian Cabinet early in February, Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer announced that according to the reports he had received from the district electoral commissions throughout Austria the following eleven parties and political groups had requested to be placed on the ballot for the national elections just concluded:

1. The Austrian People's Party (OeVP).
2. The Socialist Party of Austria (SPÖ).
3. The League of Austrian Monarchists (only in Election District 24, Carinthia).
4. The Christian-Democratic Party - "Krsanska Demokratska Stranka" (only in Election District 24, Carinthia).
5. The Christian-Social Party and Independent Candidates.
6. The Austrian National Republicans and Non-party Voters.
7. The Austrian Patriotic Union (OePU) (only in Election Districts 3, Vienna-Northwest, and 7, Vienna-East).
8. The Supra-party Union of the Center - The Middle-of-the-Road Ticket - The Ticket on Non-party Candidates.
9. The People's Opposition Ticket (VO) (Communist).
10. The Ticket of Independents (WdU).
11. The Ticket of Free Democrats.

CHANCELLOR FIGL WARNS PARTITION OF AUSTRIA WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. In mid-February Chancellor Leopold Figl of Austria told several election rallies that the conclusion of an Austrian State Treaty would be equivalent to a peace treaty for the entire world.

Dr. Figl also said: "We are being taken to task for having neglected, unlike Western Germany, to strive for a separate treaty. The fact is that a peace treaty such as Western Germany has been granted could have been obtained by us back in 1947 at the London talks, but this would have meant the abandonment of Vienna, Lower Austria and the Burgenland. Austria would have been partitioned in two just as Germany is today. But the unity of Austria must never be destroyed."

DR. GRUBER SAYS NEW PARLIAMENT WILL DEFINE AUSTRIAN WISHES WITH REGARD TO STATE TREATY.

In an interview granted to the "Neue Wiener Tageszeitung" in mid-February Foreign Minister Gruber said that "the short treaty form is not a fetish with us," adding that it was a "negotiation proposal born of the realization that the Soviet Union would not be so quickly prepared to negotiate; it was also intended to allow the new Parliament full freedom of political decision with regard to the acceptable price for our independence. The decisive problem, therefore, is not the withdrawal of the abbreviated treaty but the question of

whether the Soviet Union would, for its part, also be prepared to give assurances that negotiations will proceed smoothly. One of our earliest tasks will be to obtain a greater clarification of Soviet intentions in this connection."

Dr. Gruber went on to say that the more dangerous the international situation becomes, the better the chances for a positive solution of specific issues, because even the Great Powers would then be prompted to counterbalance increased tension by peaceful moves.

International Situation Offers New Diplomatic Possibilities

"The Austrian State Treaty," Dr. Gruber said, "will not be concluded as a result of a tactical maneuver but rather on the basis of the Four Powers' will to sign it. If we did not feel that there was a real chance of negotiation between the Four Powers we would not have held out the prospect of any such possibilities. I believe that the new phase in world politics will open up new possibilities of action for international diplomacy."

The Austrian Foreign Minister then said that the prospects of a State Treaty for Austria would stand or fall with stable, orderly political conditions, for an Austria torn by political strife would not contribute to political peace but, on the contrary, would be an invitation to infiltration and aggression. Such unsettled conditions would thus not prevent tension in Europe, but rather intensify it considerably. Dr. Gruber ended by saying that the will to reach an agreement on the treaty would manifest itself more strongly when growing foreign danger also began to pound at the gates of the Great Powers.

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MINISTER WALDBRUNNER ATTENDED CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN TRANSPORTATION MINISTERS. At the beginning of February, Austrian Minister of Communications Waldbrunner made the following statement with reference to the three-day conference of transportation ministers from eight European countries which he had attended and which had been called to lay the foundations for a European Transport Union: "The participation of Austria is of particular importance in view of the fact that Austria is a transit country.... To improve the transit of extra-heavy freight, the conference decided to establish a freight-car pool to which Austria could pledge a contribution of only 3000 cars. On the matter of a unified system of rail electrification, Austria has already taken the lead with the electrification of her Western trunk line."

International Financing Fund Planned

Minister Waldbrunner added that plans were approved for the creation of an international financing fund and for the establishment of international transit routes. The Buchs-Innsbruck-Salzburg-Vienna line was being considered for such through-traffic routing. In connection with waterways, he said that Austria was primarily interested in the projected Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, the construction of which, however, will cost an estimated three billion German marks.

VIENNA PAPER SAYS RECENT TREATY TALKS IN LONDON CHARACTERIZED BY EAST AND WEST'S DESIRE TO SAVE FACE.

In an editorial which appeared in mid-February the "Neues Oesterreich" asserts that the attitude of both East and West at the 259th and 260th sessions of the recent State Treaty talks in London was prompted by a desire to save face and influenced by questions of prestige. Right from the start, the paper claims, special interests had entered into the negotiations which were far removed from the Austrian sphere of interest. Realistic political considerations had been replaced by the air bubbles of diplomatic formalism.

The editorial went on to state: "It was announced that the talks failed because no agreement could be reached on the problem of whether or not the 'skeleton treaty should be withdrawn.' The Russians are said to have insisted on unconditional withdrawal and the others (i.e. Western Powers-Ed.) on retention. And there the matter ended, with the talks being adjourned indefinitely."

Diplomatic Concepts Found Incomprehensible

"The last two sessions, the 259th and the 260th, thus failed because of this question of form. To understand this one must put oneself in the position of the diplomat whose mind, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, works along entirely different lines of thought from that of the ordinary man. Ordinary people will hardly comprehend why the Russians insist on the formal unconditional withdrawal of the skeleton treaty, inasmuch as this matter has already been superseded anyway and since, moreover, not a word of this treaty could go into effect without Russian agreement."

The editorial concluded as follows: "The position of the Western Powers is just as difficult to understand. The West does not want to drop the short treaty unconditionally, but is willing to do so only on the condition that 'a fair and reasonable treaty be concluded on another basis'. However, regardless of whether the Western Powers agree to drop the short treaty form or not, the latter has in fact already been dropped."

In Western circles, it was stated that the Four-Power talks in London were of special significance and went beyond the frame-work of the Austrian question since this problem now offered virtually the only opportunity to dealing directly with the Soviet Union.

MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HELMER LASHES OUT AGAINST SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH AUSTRIAN POLICE ACTIVITIES.

In a speech to the Police Department Headquarters in mid-February, Austrian Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer charged that certain occupation authorities were continuing to interfere with the activities of the country's security forces. He said that the work of his ministry was being constantly obstructed by continual Russian interference in personnel matters affecting the Soviet occupied districts of Vienna. He cited the case of the police commissioners of Vienna's 4th and 20th districts who, following disciplinary action, were removed from active service and retired. They then requested full payment of their pensions and collected 28,000 to 35,000 schillings. "But what we cannot

put up with," Minister Helmer said, "is that these officials, now private citizens, had to be reinstated as police directors for the Soviets by order of the Russian authorities. These men continue to issue orders and instructions to police officers, although their execution is without any legal foundation. All efforts to restore a situation of legality in these districts have been frustrated by the Soviet authorities. This state of affairs has become unbearable."

INTENSITY OF RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN REFLECTED IN BATTLE OF THE POSTERS. The Austrian Special News Service ("Sonderdienst Oesterreich") recently reported that the two-month national election campaign just concluded in Austria was characterized by a variety of interesting posters and original campaign literature.

So-called propaganda towers were erected all over Vienna. One poster of the People's Party, bearing the slogan "Protection Against Inflation" ("Schutz gegen Inflation"), showed a "Red Spider" to illustrate the socialization tendencies of the Socialist Party. Another pictured a "Red Hand" reaching out to grab factories, small arts-and-crafts enterprises and institutions of learning and research, against which the People's Party promised to defend the country. Not to be outdone, the Socialists in turn had a poster depicting a "Black Pension Claw" depriving the aged of their pensions. (The color black has often been used by opponents of the People's Party to stigmatize the latter-Ed.) The Independent Ticket issued a single poster with the letters W.d.U. ("Wahlpartei der Unabhängigen") in white on a green background. Behind the mask of the "People's Opposition," the Communists assured Austria's laborers and white-collar workers that "This Ticket Pays Off", by which they meant that a vote for the "People's Opposition" was a vote for better wages. One Vienna paper promptly jumped on the Communist slogan by listing a few of the less savory achievements in the "People's Democracies" under the apt heading: "The Pay Off on this Ticket".

Second Wave of Posters Dealt with Full Employment Issue

Toward the end of January a second wave in the battle of the posters swamped the billboards and advertising pillars in Austria's towns and villages. The People's Party came out with a poster showing a bridge to the future, labelled "Full Employment," firmly anchored in a "Stable Currency." In the Tyrol, a series of posters depicted the "Political Scene." One of these showed a typical native, with characteristic mustache and Tyrolean hat (a symbolic figure with which the People's Party identifies itself), telling off the Socialists (identified by the opposition with the color red) in local dialect: "Der macht's Defizit, do tian mir nimmer mit!" ("For Runners into Debt We've Never Voted Yet!") and "Let the Reds Gain and The Schilling'll be Down the Drain" ("Roter Mund, Schillingsschwund"). The Socialist poster showed larger than life-size heads of a young man and an old woman, with the slogan: "Full Employment for the Young - National Pensions for the Aged." The Communists pictured a worried woman telling other women: "They Won't Deceive Us Again This Time."

One of the Socialist posters pointed to the Communist danger in dead earnest by showing a black scaffold rising

from a batch of Czech newspaper clippings reporting the Slansky execution, and the ominous words: "Today, Still Mounting a Proud Charger....". This poster was immediately banned by the Russians in their zone of occupation and soon thereafter in the inter-Allied district of Vienna (the Inner City). The Socialists responded by affixing a new poster with the word "Censored" at the places where the prohibited poster had first appeared. The following text accompanied the new poster: "At this spot there was an election poster of the Socialist Party. It had to be covered by order of the Allied City Commandant. For a Free Austria Vote Socialist."

SOCIALISTS CALL RUSSIAN RETAIL OUTLETS IN AUSTRIA "SOVIET IMPERIALISM IN MINIATURE." The Austrian Socialist News Service ("Sozialistische Korrespondenz") recently reported that last year the USIA (Administration of Soviet-controlled Property in Austria - Ed.) increased its retail outlets from 57 to 120 stores. The report describes the operation and management of these stores as "Soviet imperialism in miniature."

The report commented as follows: "The Occupying Power (i.e. Russia - Ed.) hates Austrians who do not want to become Communists, but it is perfectly willing to take their money. The USIA makes every effort to display and offer low-cost merchandise; once the customer is in the store, however, he is prevailed upon to buy other merchandise that is considerably more expensive." The report added that complaints about weight shortages or spoiled merchandise are completely disregarded; in fact, sales personnel are not infrequently known to have threatened complaining customers with denunciation to the occupation authorities.

USIA NOW HOLDS 54,000 HECTARES OF AUSTRIAN LAND.

"Die Presse" recently reported that as the new year started the Soviet authorities were still operating 111 Austrian agricultural holdings through their USIA organization (Administration of Soviet Property in Austria - Ed.). These properties cover a combined area of 54,000 hectares (1 hectare = 2.47 acres), of which 16,000 hectares are farmland, 34,000 hectares forest-land, 2,000 hectares pasture-land and 2,000 hectares vineyards etc. The aggregate value of these holdings has been estimated at more than 400,000,000 schillings. Many of them were "Aryanized" by the Germans in 1938 and then seized by the Russians as "German assets" after the war.

Of these 111 holdings, thirty-six encompass less than 500 hectares, thirteen less than 200 hectares and twenty-seven less than 100 hectares. In addition to these 54,000 hectares, the Soviet authorities have also requisitioned a number of troop-training areas and airfields.

SOVIETS REPORTED DEMANDING RENTAL FEE FOR USE OF "BOOTY" LOCOMOTIVES. The Austrian Government is reported to have been notified in mid-January by the Soviet occupation authorities that Austria would have to pay a yearly rental of thirty million schillings for all "booty" locomotives left in the Soviet Zone, according to a recent report in the "Arbeiter-Zeitung."

The Soviets had previously demanded that these engines be bought back from them, but the Austrian Government re-

jected so patently unacceptable a request because the 439 locomotives still left in Austria are demonstrably of Austrian origin, notwithstanding the fact that today they bear the Soviet booty markings and the Russian letters CCCP (USSR - Ed.). These locomotives belonged to the Austrian Railways' rolling stock before 1938 and are definitely not "German assets", as the Russians contend.

Over 700 Locomotives Removed from Austria Since 1946

Since 1946 the Russians have removed more than 700 large and small locomotives to Rumania and other Soviet satellites from their zone of Austria. A smaller number have been dismantled for scrap and several have been distributed among the USIA (Russian-controlled) enterprises. One hundred and thirty of these were undeniably Austrian property, and many more may have been (prior to 1946 the Federal Railways had no control over their rolling stock). In November 1948 and January 1949, for example, no less than 570 steam locomotives were seized by the Russians in a single operation.

AUSTRIA RESPONDS GENEROUSLY WITH DONATIONS FOR DUTCH FLOOD VICTIMS.

At the beginning of February various Austrian groups and organizations spontaneously responded to the recent catastrophe in the Netherlands with flood relief donations.

Cardinal Innitzer of Vienna received representatives of the Dutch Catholic press in Austria and informed them that he was making 100,000 schillings available for the relief of flood victims on behalf of Austria's dioceses. The national committee of the Austrian People's Party contributed 120,000 schillings from its election fund and the executive committee of the Socialist Party did likewise, donating another 100,000 schillings from its election fund. The Catholic Action movement of the Archdiocese of Vienna appealed to its members to help the Dutch, and the Austrian Federation of Labor issued a similar appeal to union members. The largest single contribution was made by the Federation of Labor which gave 500,000 schillings. This organization also decided to invite 250 Dutch children to spend twelve weeks in its convalescence home at Moosham-bei-Tamsweg.

MODERNIZED STEEL WORKS IN MUERZZUSCHLAG EXPECT EXPORT INCREASE OF 100,000,000 SCH. IN 1953.

Early in February, Karl Waldbrunner, Austrian Minister of Communications, opened the recently modernized Schoeller-Bleckmann high-grade steel and plate-rolling mills in Muerzzuschlag. After the war this plant had been stripped of machines valued at 400,000,000 schillings, but it has since been re-equipped with completely up-to-date machinery at a cost of 150,000,000 schillings. Minister Waldbrunner said that the plant was now one of the most modern high-grade steel mills anywhere and "a proud pillar of Austrian industry."

When operated at full capacity, the modernized plate-rolling mill, which was put into service on February 7, will ultimately increase steel exports by some 250,000,000 schillings per year. The new plant for deep-well drilling machinery, which was opened on the same day, will add another 100,000,000 schillings to Austria's export earnings.

The Muerzzuschlag industrial complex of the Schoeller-Bleckmann Corporation, whose export earnings in 1946 amounted to only 9,000,000 schillings, raised its 1952 volume of exports to a value of 330,000,000 schillings, a figure which represents 62% of its turnover. This year's output from the new rolling mill is expected to increase exports by 100,000,000 schillings and export deliveries from the plant making deep-well drilling equipment will probably bring in an additional 60,000,000.

WAR AND POSTWAR ROLLING STOCK LOSSES INCLUDE 10,000 CARS.

The "Arbeiter-Zeitung" recently reported that thousands of railroad cars were brought to Austria by the Germans during the war. After the war, this rolling stock which the Nazis had transferred from other occupied areas was ordered returned to the original countries by the Allies. Thus, Hungary received 2700 cars, Czechoslovakia 780, Poland 750, Rumania 200, Yugoslavia more than 400, Italy 650 and France 4500.

During World War II many Austrian railroad cars also were removed to other countries. After the end of hostilities the Austrian Federal Railways recovered 2700 cars by way of exchange, most of them sorely in need of repairs. The last lot to be returned to Austria included 272 cars from Belgium and Luxemburg which arrived in the fall of 1952. With the return of 1000 railroad cars from France the exchange operation with Western Europe will have been completed, the only claim then remaining to be settled being the number of cars retained by the Soviet satellite states and the number of those now in the Russian zone of occupation which are being claimed as war booty.

In 1938 Austria had 33,000 freight cars, including 1000 work cars, and 5800 passenger cars. After World War II the Austrian Federal Railways were permitted to retain only 24,000 freight cars and 4100 passenger cars, most of which had to be repaired or overhauled. Austria's rolling stock losses during the war and postwar periods thus came to some 10,000 cars. These missing freight cars, however, which Austria direly needs, are operating without a cent of compensation in the Eastern Bloc countries whose governments have refused to return them.

According to the investigations made by the C.I.R.I. (international commission for the identification of foreign rolling stock), whose representatives were excluded from Czechoslovakia after the Communist putsch in February 1948, that country still holds a considerable number of Austrian railroad cars. From Hungary, too, it is reported that several hundred Austrian passenger cars of the latest design are still in service there.

THOUSANDTH "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" SPECIALIST LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES.

Officials of the Austrian Productivity Center recently bade farewell to a study group of ten men who set out on a six-week educational tour of the United States arranged within the framework of the "Technical Assistance Program." This group of specialists from all branches of industry contained the thousandth member of such groups, the sales manager of the Elin-Werke, A.G.

Through "Technical Assistance," 80 Austrian specialists went to the United States in 1950, 211 in 1951 and 701 in 1952.

AUSTRIAN I.C.C. COMMITTEE PROPOSES SUPRANATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS TO I.C.C. According to a report from the "Sonderdienst Oesterreich" (Austrian Special News Service), a proposal was recently submitted to the International Chamber of Commerce by the I.C.C.'s Austrian Committee suggesting that the I.C.C. member countries integrate their national industrial organizations into supranational associations with authority to coordinate activities in the various branches of trade and industry. It is felt that such integration would produce valuable results for the benefit of all the nations involved. The proposal thus calls for the establishment of supranational trade and industrial associations by the member countries themselves but within the framework of the International Chamber of Commerce.

The 14th Congress of the I.C.C. will meet in Vienna from May 18 to 23, 1953, under the general theme: "World trade is Everybody's Business" (see AUSTRIAN INFORMATION bulletin V/24 of December 19, 1952). Forty national committees are expected to be represented by some 800 delegates. Organizational preparations are now in full swing to assure that the work of the Congress, which is to cover all phases of trade and industry, will be a success.

Congress to Clarify Important Economic Questions

The Austrian capital was selected as the site for the 14th Congress pursuant to an invitation extended at the I.C.C.'s 13th Congress in Lisbon last year by Julius Raab, President of the Austrian National Committee. The plan to hold the Congress in Vienna was already adopted some time ago, thereby disproving press reports which have recently stated that the I.C.C. intended to stage a counter-demonstration to the highly publicized Moscow Economic Conference by holding its 14th Congress in Vienna — at the easternmost edge of the Western world. This, however, was refuted by the I.C.C. itself which declared that its congresses were purely economic in character and were held periodically; in fact, every 2nd year in a different country. Because of the world-wide importance of the fifty-nation organization, whose voice carries considerable weight in international economic councils and whose views have influenced world economic policies, these congresses are very thoroughly prepared.

International economic cooperation having led to tangible progress in certain fields, the forthcoming Congress is being awaited with considerable interest by all branches of trade and industry, all the more so since such important questions as the convertibility of currencies, the expansion of industrial production through free trade and European economic integration as a factor of world peace and higher living standards will be discussed.

I.C.C. and Austrian Finance Minister Kamitz Share Same Views

The four panel groups to deliberate within the framework of the Congress sessions will cover the following major fields: economic policy and currency policy; production, promotion and distribution; communications and news; and legal policy and business practices.

Subjects of general interest will be discussed at plenary sessions. These include, in addition to those mentioned above, questions relating to economic stability and to the

production of raw materials. Moreover, the I.C.C. will continue its efforts to find a solution for the problem of surpluses and shortages although to date there has been little progress in this direction.

The "Sonderdienst" report goes on to state that in this field Austria will be in a position to make some pertinent contributions to the discussion inasmuch as the proposals advanced by Austrian Minister of Finance Kamitz on the subject of currency stabilization are known to coincide with the views held by most members of the I.C.C. When Dr. Kamitz recently declared that a balanced budget in the individual countries was a prerequisite for any successful activity on the part of the I.C.C. and when he urged the adoption of anti-inflationary measures, the Austrian Minister of Finance was laying the foundations in Austria for an international division of labor.

World-Wide Character of International Chamber of Commerce

Although the I.C.C. Congress may be expected to devote a considerable amount of time to a discussion of European integration and may even move closer to the establishment of a continental European Committee composed of the presidents of the various national committees, the organization's essentially world-wide character will be reflected by a comprehensive review of the economic development of Asia, Africa and South America, as well as by the adoption of measures to promote free trade, not only among individual states but also between continents.

The I.C.C. does not favor any one state or even group of states, as illustrated by the fact that a separate commission was recently established for the organization's Asian member states which are to meet for the first time next January in Calcutta to discuss their own economic problems.

Some preparatory work has been done through the close contacts the I.C.C. maintains with the other world economic organizations and as a result of the mutual exchange of observers at the various congresses. Some forty-one international associations, including E.C.E., the International Association of Commercial Employers etc., have been invited to send observers to the Vienna Congress, and most of them are expected to do so.

FAR-EAST EXPORT MISSION SUCCESSFUL. The head of the Austrian Far-East Export Mission, Legation Counselor Dr. Bobleter, and the delegate of the Federal Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Brauneis, are taking part in the economic conference which was convened in Manila on February 23 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

The mission was recently in the Philippines, Hongkong, Formosa, Siam, Indonesia and Rangoon, Burma, and went on from there to Calcutta and Ceylon.

ARGENTINE TRADE DELEGATION VISITS VIENNA. At the beginning of February an Argentine trade delegation headed by Dr. Correa Avila, general director of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Trade, arrived in Vienna from Switzerland. Its purpose was to study the possibilities of expanding the volume of trade between the two countries.

COMPLETION OF SALZBURG-VIENNA AND SALZBURG-CARINTHIA TURNPIKES PLANNED. The "Salzburger Nachrichten" recently reported that completion of the Salzburg-Vienna Turnpike, which will require an outlay of 3.8 billion schillings, was undoubtedly the most important single project of the economic reconstruction program proposed by Austrian Minister of Finance Kamitz.

The entire length of the turnpike is 353 km. (1 km = 0.624 miles), of which 12.9 km. of two-lane construction and 5 km. of one-lane construction have already been completed in Salzburg. Work on the rest of the turnpike has just barely begun, although 303 km. have already been laid out; (some 50 km. are still un-surveyed).

The project will require a number of major structures, including 36 bridges with a span of more than two hundred feet, 526 smaller bridges, overpasses and underpasses, and 359 pipe-lines and similar crossings.

The paper also said that the southern turnpike from Salzburg to Carinthia is likewise under active consideration, all the more so since it is an important part of Europe's continental turnpike system. So far, one pilot tunnel has been completed and two others — through the Lueg Pass and under Katschberg — have been started.

AUSTRIA'S TWO LARGEST BANKS MAKE PUBLIC THEIR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES. The assets and liabilities (as of December 31, 1952) of Austria's two largest banks, the Austria Laenderbank A.G. and the Creditanstalt-Bankverein, were recently made public.

The Austria Laenderbank A.G. registered 286,800,000 schillings in liquid cash deposits with the Austrian National Bank and the Post Office Savings Bank, 240,000,000 schillings in treasury bonds, 594,200,000 in drafts, 19,700,000 in bank debits, 1,035,800,000 in other debits and 5,900,000 in miscellaneous assets. Liabilities were listed at 402,600,000 schillings in bank credits, 1,682,000,000 in other credits and 145,100,000 in savings deposits. The liquid balance was 52.1 percent.

The books of the Creditanstalt-Bankverein show as of December 31, 1952, liquid assets amounting to a total of 328,700,000 schillings in deposits with the National Bank and the Post Office Savings Bank, 89,000,000 in treasury bonds, 792,500,000 in drafts, 40,000,000 in bank debits, 1,693,000,000 in other debits and 12,500,000 in miscellaneous assets. Liabilities amounted to 504,100,000 schillings in bank credits, 2,005,500,000 in other credits and 207,800,000 in savings deposits. The liquid balance amounted to 46 per cent.

CREDIT PARLEY OPENS IN SWITZERLAND ON EXPANSION OF TELEPHONE NETWORK. The credit talks now being held with regard to the expansion of the Austrian telephone network between Austrian and Swiss points and its possible conversion to an automatic dialling system were, according to the "Sonderdienst Oesterreich", drawing near to a successful close. Financial backing is to be furnished by three large Swiss banking institutions. Although the exact sum involved is not known, an amount of from 30 to 40 million Swiss francs is being mentioned.

AUSTRIA PLANS CONSTRUCTION OF SAWDUST BRIQUETTE PLANTS. It was recently announced in Austria that plans are being made for the construction of sawdust briquette plants in a number of richly wooded regions of the country. Experiments have already been completed for the manufacture of such briquettes from sawdust, a by-product of Austria's sawmills which is in large supply. Made of sawdust from soft wood, these briquettes have a calorific value of 4,000-4,500 calories and are therefore almost as effective as lignite briquettes, which have a heating value of about 5,000 calories. The production of sawdust briquettes was resumed at a plant in Styria in 1952.

TRADE WITH AFRICA DISCUSSED. In the week beginning February 23, 1953, a foreign trade conference was held in Vienna to discuss the question of trade between Austria and Africa. The conference was organized by the Federal Chamber of Commerce.

Its main task was to evaluate the results of the trip made to Africa in 1952 by the three trade delegates, Dr. Jambour, Dr. Schranz and Dr. Eibenschuetz. In addition to these men, Dr. Grohs from Johannesburg, Dr. Frisch from Paris and Mr. Novick, Chief foreign service officer from Casablanca, were also invited to participate in the conference.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

GOTTFRIED VON EINEM IN THE UNITED STATES. Gottfried von Einem, one of Austria's most talented composers, is now visiting the United States at the invitation of the State Department. During the trip, his first to this country, the composer will have occasion to visit a number of music centers and speak to leading personalities in American musical life.

Gottfried von Einem, one of the five members of the Board of Directors of the Salzburg Festival, was born in Berne on January 24, 1918, the son of the Austrian Military Attaché in Switzerland. During his school years in Holstein, Germany, he showed considerable interest in music, for which his unusual aptitude was reflected in a number of short compositions that attracted the attention of such famous men as Bruno Walter, Kienzl and Sibelius. Both while in school and after graduation from the gymnasium, he traveled extensively through France, Italy, and England, and attended the Salzburg and Bayreuth festivals regularly every year.

His professional career began in 1938 when he joined the Berlin State Opera under the direction of Tietjen. In 1941 he took up the regular study of music with Boris Blacher, a noted composer whose works were banned by the Nazis. Later he became an assistant of Karl Elmendorff at the Dresden Opera House, where he remained until 1944.

Then began his active life as a full-time composer. His many works include three full-length ballets, several orchestral pieces, piano compositions, a concerto, songs, serenades, choral works and two operas. The first of these, "Danton's Tod" (Danton's Death) had a successful premiere at the Salzburg Festival in 1947. The second, "Der Prozess"

SCHEDULE OF THE SALZBURG FESTIVAL 1953 JULY 26TH—AUGUST 30TH

COURTYARD OF THE RESIDENZ	FESTSPIELHAUS / Felsenreitschule	DATE	OTHER PLACES
	Everyman (Domplatz) 5 p. m.	Sunday 26 th	1 st Church Music Concert (Aula) 8.30 p. m.
	Don Giovanni (Felsenreitschule) 7 p. m.	Monday 27 th	
	Der Rosenkavalier 7 p. m.	Tuesday 28 th	
	1 st Serenade (Felsenreitschule) 9 p. m.	Wednesday 29 th	*1 st Chamber Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m.
		Thursday 30 th	1 st Mozart Matinée (Mozarteum) 11 a. m. 2 nd Chamber Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m.
Così fan tutte 7.30 p. m.		Friday 31 st	
		Saturday 1 st	1 st Orchestral Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m.
	Everyman (Domplatz) 5 p. m.	Sunday 2 nd	2 nd Mozart Matinée (Mozarteum) 11 a. m. 2 nd Church Music Concert (Aula) 8.30 p. m.
	Don Giovanni (Felsenreitschule) 7 p. m.	Monday 3 rd	
Così fan tutte 7.30 p. m.		Tuesday 4 th	
2 nd Serenade 9 p. m.		Wednesday 5 th	3 rd Chamber Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m.
	Der Rosenkavalier 7 p. m.	Thursday 6 th	
	The Marriage of Figaro 7 p. m.	Friday 7 th	
	Don Giovanni (Felsenreitschule) 7 p. m.	Saturday 8 th	*Mass in C minor (St. Peter) 11 a. m. 4 th Chamber Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m.
Così fan tutte 7.30 p. m.	2 nd Orchestral Concert 11 a. m. Everyman (Domplatz) 5 p. m.	Sunday 9 th	3 rd Church Music Concert (Aula) 8.30 p. m.
	Der Rosenkavalier 7 p. m.	Monday 10 th	
3 rd Serenade 9 p. m.	The Marriage of Figaro 7 p. m.	Tuesday 11 th	
	Julius Caesar (Felsenreitschule) 8 p. m.	Wednesday 12 th	5 th Chamber Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m.
	Der Rosenkavalier 7 p. m.	Thursday 13 th	
4 th Serenade 9 p. m.	The Marriage of Figaro 7 p. m.	Friday 14 th	
Così fan tutte 7.30 p. m.	Everyman (Domplatz) 5 p. m. Julius Caesar (Felsenreitschule) 8 p. m.	Saturday 15 th	3 rd Mozart Matinée (Mozarteum) 11 a. m.
	1 st Soloist Concert 11 a. m. Everyman (Domplatz) 5 p. m. Julius Caesar (Felsenreitschule) 8 p. m.	Sunday 16 th	*3 rd Orchestral Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m. 4 th Church Music Concert (Aula) 8.30 p. m.
	Der Prozess 7 p. m.	Monday 17 th	
	Don Giovanni (Felsenreitschule) 7 p. m.	Tuesday 18 th	
	4 th Orchestral Concert 8 p. m.	Wednesday 19 th	
5 th Serenade 9 p. m.	5 th Orchestral Concert 8 p. m.	Thursday 20 th	
	Der Rosenkavalier 7 p. m.	Friday 21 st	
	Der Prozess 7 p. m.	Saturday 22 nd	6 th Chamber Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m.
Così fan tutte 7.30 p. m.	6 th Orchestral Concert 11 a. m. Everyman (Domplatz) 5 p. m. Julius Caesar (Felsenreitschule) 8 p. m.	Sunday 23 rd	5 th Church Music Concert (Aula) 8.30 p. m.
	Der Prozess 7 p. m.	Monday 24 th	2 nd Soloist Concert (Mozarteum) 8 p. m.
	Der Rosenkavalier 7 p. m.	Tuesday 25 th	
	7 th Orchestral Concert 8 p. m.	Wednesday 26 th	
	Der Prozess 7 p. m.	Thursday 27 th	
	Don Giovanni (Felsenreitschule) 7 p. m.	Friday 28 th	
	The Marriage of Figaro 7 p. m.	Saturday 29 th	6 th Church Music Concert (Aula) 8.30 p. m.
	Everyman (Domplatz) 5 p. m. 8 th Orchestral Concert 8.30 p. m.	Sunday 30 th	4 th Mozart Matinée (Mozarteum) 11 a. m.

(The Trial), will be given its world premiere at this year's Salzburg Festival under the direction of Karl Boehm, with Max Lorenz and Lisa della Casa singing the main roles.

AN ADDITIONAL 180 MILLION SCHILLINGS NEEDED TO RESTORE VIENNA STATE OPERA AND BURGTHEATER.

Austrian Undersecretary of State Bock announced at a recent press conference that 106,000,000 schillings had already been spent for the reconstruction of the Vienna State Opera and the Vienna Burgtheater — 90,300,000 on the opera house and 15,700,000 on the Burgtheater. Before the two theaters can reopen their doors to the public, an additional 180 million

will still be necessary, 125,000,000 for the opera and 55,000,000 for the Burgtheater. Dr. Bock estimated that of this sum only 36,000,000 schillings can be made available in 1953, which means that the famous two theaters would be ready for use in four years.

VIENNA FESTIVAL WEEKS TO BE HELD FROM MAY 30 TO JUNE 21. The 1953 Vienna Festival Weeks, to be held from May 30 to June 21, will offer a variety of concerts, operas, exhibitions and international congresses.

Among the noteworthy events scheduled for the festival is an international music competition sponsored by the So-

ciety of the Friends of Music in Vienna from June 1 to 12. The competition, which will cover piano, violin and singing, is open to any artist or music student under the age of thirty (as of June 1, 1953), regardless of nationality. Prizes totaling 100,000 schillings (about \$4,000) will be awarded.

The 5th International Festival of Music, organized by the Vienna Concert House Society, will be held from June 6 to 21. The program includes works by Richard Strauss ("Die Frau ohne Schatten"), Claude Debussy ("Le Martyr de St. Sebastien"), Darius Milhaud ("Le Pauvre Matelot"), Arthur Honegger ("Le Cri du Monde") and Carl Orff ("Trionfi"), as well as various chamber music compositions.

Special concerts will be presented on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Franz Schubert's death and on the 50th anniversary of the death of Hugo Wolf. In addition, the program will include a Johann Strauss Memorial Concert, a choral concert by young Austrian singers, a "Historical Serenade" concert in Kreuzenstein Castle and a cycle of masses performed in old Vienna churches.

The Vienna State Opera has scheduled a production of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" in the courtyard of Schoenbrunn Palace. The Theater in der Josefstadt will present the "Ballade vom Lieben Augustin" in the main court of Vienna's Town Hall. The State Opera ensemble now performing in the Theater an der Wien and at the Volksoper will stage operas by R. Strauss, Mozart, Beethoven and Wilhelm Kienzl. Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" will be given at the Burgtheater, Ferdinand Raimund's "Die gefesselte

Phantasie" at the Akademietheater, an as yet unannounced play by Karl Zuckmayer at the Theater in der Josefstadt and Johann Nestroy's "Das Haus der Temperamente" at the Volkstheater. The latter group will also prepare a production of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure."

No less than fifteen different exhibitions are now being planned for the festival. From June 1 to 7, the Austrian capital will play host to the International Conference of Journalists, and from June 15 to 20 to the 11th International Congress of Mayors.

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MINISTER OF EDUCATION KOLB DENIES CHANGES IN VIENNA STATE OPERA MANAGEMENT. Austrian Minister of Education Kolb recently stated that Professor Clemens Krauss would continue to be entrusted "with the plans and measures necessary to assure the undisturbed and smooth operation of the State Opera after its transfer from the Theater-an-der-Wien to the great (Opera) House on the Ring."

The "Sonderdienst Oesterreich" (Austrian Special News Service) believes that Dr. Kolb's statement will effectively silence recent rumors regarding impending changes in the management of the State Opera. The status of Professor Franz Salmhofer, whose activity as Director at the Theater-an-der-Wien is contractually defined and who has been working on the artistic rehabilitation of the opera, remains unchanged.

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